

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 DHA-02 /106 W
-----300155Z 026198 /22

R 291210Z MAR 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4538
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
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AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KINSHSA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

UNCLAS DAR ES SALAAM 1338

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TZ
SSUBJ: NYERERE'S PRESS CONFERENCE WITH SOVIET
JOURNALISTS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT RELEASED BY TANZANIA NEWS AGENCY (SHIHATA)
OF PRESIDENT NYERERE'S PRESS CONFERENCE WITH SOVIET JOURNALIST
MARCH 26, DURING VISIT OF USSR PRESIDENT PODGORNYY.
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2. BEGIN TEXT:

QUESTION: COMRADE PRESIDENT, WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPAL TASKS OF
THE CHAMA CHA MAPINDUZI AND THE GOVERNMENT OF TANZANIA IN
THE CREATION OF SOCIALISM BASIS IN TANZANIA?

NYERERE: WE HAVE TWO TASKS; WE ARE A YOUNG COUNTRY WHICH ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE ONLY SIXTEEN YEARS AGO. SO, WE HAVE THE TASK OF CONSOLIDATING OUR INDEPENDENCE. WE ARE UNITING THE UNITED REPUBLIC BETWEEN TWO FORMER REPUBLICS OF TANGANYIKA AND ZANZIBAR; WE HAVE THE TASK OF CONSOLIDATING OUR OWN UNITY AND OUR OWN INDEPENDENCE. IN ACTUAL FACT, THE UNITY OF THE TWO PARTIES ITSELF IS PART OF THAT CONSOLIDATION OF OUR OWN NATION AND OUR OWN UNITY.

SECONDLY, WE HAVE THE TASK OF BUILDING THE ECONOMY OF OUR COUNTRY AND BUILDING THE CULTURE OF OUR COUNTRY. WE ARE AMONG THE POOREST COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD AND SO WE HAVE TO TRY TO BUILD THE ECONOMY OF OUR OWN COUNTRY. WE HAVE CHOSEN TO BUILD A SOCIALIST ECONOMY AND SO WHEN I SAY OUR NEXT TASK, APART FROM THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE UNITY OF OUR COUNTRY AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF OUR COUNTRY, IS THE BUILDING OF AN ECONOMY, WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO BUILD A SOCIALIST ECONOMY.

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU ESTIMATE THE PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND TANZANIA?

NYERERE: WE BEGAN CONTACT, AS NATION-TO-NATION CONTACT BETWEEN TANZANIA AND THE SOVIET UNION ONLY AFTER INDEPENDENCE; AFTER INDEPENDENCE OF MAINLAND TANZANIA, WHICH I SAY, WAS LESS THAN SIXTEEN YEARS AGO. AND SO REALLY THE FIRST TASK OF OUR RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND OUR COUNTRY, HAS BEEN THE BUILDING OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING; SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF TANZANIA

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CAN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THE PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION A BIT OF THEIR HISTORY, THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND WHAT THEY ARE

TRYING TO DO WITHIN THEIR OWN COUNTRY; SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION CAN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND A LITTLE BIT OF THE HISTORY OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF TANZANIA.

I VISITED THE SOVIET UNION IN 1969 IN ORDER TO HELP THIS MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING; SO THAT WE CAN UNDERSTAND A LITTLE BIT OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE SOVIET UNION CAN BEGIN A LITTLE BIT OF UNDERSTANDING. IT IS AS A RESULT OF THIS UNDERSTANDING THAT WE BEGIN TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS, TO BUILD MORE CO-OPERATION AND GREATER UNDERSTANDING. NOW, TODAY IN 1977, THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF UNDERSTANDING. WE UNDERSTAND THE PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION MUCH BETTER THAN WE UNDERSTOOD THEM SIXTEEN YEARS BACK. I THINK THE PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION UNDERSTAND US A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN THEY DID.

AND AS A RESULT OF THIS UNDERSTANDING THE DEGREE OF
CO-OPERATION AND THE DEGREE OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR
TWO PEOPLES IS MUCH STRONGER AND MUCH MORE REAL THAN
IT WAS SIXTEEN YEARS AGO.

QUESTION: WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU THE THIRD QUESTION
CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA; WE KNOW
THAT THE EVENTS WHICH ARE GOING ON IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
ARE NEGLECTED IN THE WORLD PRESS. WE WOULD LIKE TO
KNOW YOUR OPINION; HOW DO YOU ESTIMATE THE DEVELOPMENTS
IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE STAGE FOR FIGHTING FOR
NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERATION IN THE SOUTH OF
THE CONTINENT?

NYERERE: OUR CONTINENT IS AT PRESENT UNIQUE. IT IS
DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER CONTINENTS. DIFFERENT FROM
EUROPE, DIFFERENT FROM ASIA, DIFFERENT FROM AMERICA.
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IT IS THE ONLY CONTINENT WHERE WE STILL HAVE THE
ANACHRONISM OF COLONIALISM, WHERE TOWARDS THE END OF
THE 20TH CENTURY, 1977, IT IS STILL POSSIBLE FOR SOME
PEOPLE TO HAVE TO GOVERN A COUNTRY WHICH DOES NOT
BELONG TO THEM. IT IS STILL POSSIBLE FOR A SMALL
PEOPLE TO HAVE TO GOVERN A COUNTRY WHICH DOES NOT
BELONG TO THEM. IT IS STILL POSSIBLE FOR A SMALL
RACIAL MINORITY TO DOMINATE ANOTHER RACIAL MAJORITY
MAJORITY BECAUSE THEY SAY "WE ARE SUPERIOR". WE HAVE
A RIGHT, ALTHOUGH WE ARE MINORITY, TO GOVERN A MAJORITY.
THIS IS HAPPENING NOW ONLY IN THIS CONTINENT. IT IS
NOT HAPPENING ELSEWHERE.

SO, AFRICA'S STRUGGLE IS TO REMOVE THIS ANACHRONISM.
IT IS ANACHRONISM NOT JUST IN AFRICA, IT IS A WORLD
ANACHRONISM. THE WORLD TODAY SHOULD REALLY NEVER HAVE
THIS KIND OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEOPLE. SO, AFRICA
IS STRUGGLING; PART OF AFRICA IS NOW FREE; MY COUNTRY
IS NOW, AT LEAST LEGALLY, INDEPENDENT. SOUTHERN AFRICA
IS NOT INDEPENDENT, AND SO WE ARE TRYING THE LIBERATION
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. BUT SOUTHERN AFRICA IS MUCH MORE
DIFFICULT TO LIBERATE THAN THE NORTHERN PART. IN THE NORTHERN
PART OF AFRICA, WE WERE ABLE TO LIBERATE MOST OF IT.
WITH EXCEPTION OF ALGERIA, WE WERE ABLE TO
ACHIEVE LEGAL INDEPENDENCE FOR MOST OF THE NORTHERN
PART OF AFRICA WITHOUT HAVING TO WAGE WAR.

IF THIS WERE POSSIBLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WE
WOULD WELCOME IT, BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE. SO IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA WE HAD HAD TO WAGE WAR AGAINST
THE PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM AND WE NOW ARE FORCED

TO WAGE WAR IN ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA AND IT MAY BE
NECESSARY TO WAGE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF
IN ORDER TO REMOVE THIS ANCHRONISM FROM OUR
CONTINENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770108-0277
Format: TEL
From: DAR ES SALAAM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770312/aaaaakim.tel
Line Count: 181
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2968695
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> mcm 20041005
Subject: PRESS CONFERENCES
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, OVIP, TZ, UR, (NYERERE, JULIUS K), (PODGORNY, NICOLAY VIKTOROVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ca4aa1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009